

Message Text

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72 (45)

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SPC-03 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1951

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 1979

US MISSION USUN NEW YOURK 1851

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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FODAG

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y --PARA 12 --

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - STATEMENT OF US DELEGATE

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FROM USDEL TO FAO CONFERENCE

9. FOOD AID IS AN IMPORTANT AND RELATED ELEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL AID-GIVING COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD AID, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. IN OUR VIEW, GUIDELINES FOR RECIPIENTS AS WELL AS FOR PROVIDERS OF FOOD AID SHOULD BE DEVELOPED. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD AID SHOULD NOT DISCOURAGE FROM ENGAGING IN PRACTICES, INCLUDING SUCH INDIRECT MEASURES AS OVER-VALUED EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH KEEP PRICES PAID TO THEIR FARMERS ARTIFICIALLY LOW. FARMERS MUST HAVE INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE.

10. THE SECOND GENERAL AREA ADDRESSED BY THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE THE COORDINATION OF DISASTER RELIEF. IMPROVED COORDINATION SHOULD COVER NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE DISASTER PERIOD, BUT ALSO RECOVERY FROM THE DISASTER AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ACTION TO PREVENT DISASTERS.

11. MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO BE ADDRESSED BY THE CONFERENCE. FOOD SECURITY RESTS LARGELY ON THE PRODUCTIVE CAPABILITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS OVER THE WHOLE RANGE OF ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CONFERENCE. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO AVOID MAKING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE A CONFERENCE CENTERPIECE. THE DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES IN THIS FIELD WILL REQUIRE THAT WE BE SELECTIVE IN DEALING WITH THIS IMPORTANT AREA.

12. IN HIS ADDRESS IN PLENARY, SECRETARY BUTZ SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S VIEWS ON THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, AS SET OUT IN THE DOCUMENT BEFORE US. THE INCLUSION OF TRADE ISSUES IN THE AGENDA IS PERHAPS THE ONLY IMPORTANT EXCEPTION. HERE, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE OUR VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE JUST BEGINNING. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE MAJOR EFFORTS TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND ARE FULLY CONSISTENT ONE WITH THE OTHER. QUESTIONS OF TRADE AND FOOD BALANCES ARE HIGHLY INTERLINKED. THE WORLD FOOD

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CONFERENCE SHOULD FOCUS ON PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, INCLUDING STOCKS AND FOOD AID, WHICH APPLY TO ALL COUNTRIES. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTRIES AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. DISCUSSIONS IN A UNITED NATIONS FORUM WILL BE LIMITED TO GENERAL PRINCIPLE NOT TO NEGOTIATION OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. THE INTENT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GATT IS TO REACH AGREEMENT

ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS BY COUNTRIES ON ADJUSTMENTS IN THE FUTURE WORLD TRADING ORDER. SUCH COMMITMENTS MAY, OF COURSE, INCLUDE MECHANISMS FOR TURNING GENERAL PRINCIPLES INTO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON SUCH ISSUES AS STOCKPILING AND FOOD AID.

13. MR. CHAIRMAN, I NOW TURN TO OUR VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL BE THE WORK OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IN DEVELOPING OF SELECTING PROPOSALS FOR PRINCIPLES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, THE COMMITTEE WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHICH OF THE BASIC ISSUES SUGGESTED BY OURSELVES OR BY OTHERS ARE MOST IMPORTANT. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE A SECRETARY GENERAL AND STAFF APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

14. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED IN NOVEMBER 1974 FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS. IT SHOULD BE HELD PREFERABLY IN ROME, WHICH WE CONSIDER THE MOST APPROPRIATE SITE FOR A UN CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

15. THE UNITED STATES FAVORS THE WIDEST POSSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER NON-FAO MEMBERS. FOOD PROBLEMS ARE WORLD-WIDE AND THE ACTION OF ANY ONE LARGE EXPORTING OR IMPORTING COUNTRY CAN AFFECT THE WORLD. THE MOST PRESSING HUMAN PROBLEM IS THAT OF PERIODS OF FOOD DEFICIENCY IN MANY COUNTRIES. IT FOLLOWS THAT THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THESE COUNTRIES IS ALSO CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY FOOD SECURITY SCHEME.

16. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT OVER-RELIANCE ON A FEW
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PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS MAY HAVE INHIBITED WORLD-WIDE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY IN NEEDY COUNTRIES. THIS DEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP MAY ALSO HAVE INHIBITED THE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF FOOD AID DELIVERY SYSTEMS BY OTHER COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURANCE THAT ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE FED LIES WITH ALL THE MEMBERS OF WORLD COMMUNITY, NOT WITH ONLY A FEW NATIONS. END OF STATEMENT.
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